

Middle Class Insurgents  
Appeal for the Greeks  
Political Party Evils

# Letters to the Tribune's Editor

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire to Helvetius.

Our Minister to Hayti  
Five Cent Fare Enough  
A War Nurse's Story

## A Middle Class Union

### The Society of the Party of the Third Part, Aims at the Balance of Power

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: "Must we have further stratification of American society into a middle class union for self-protection?" is the question propounded by George W. Alger in The Atlantic Monthly. The answer is "Yes."

The Society of the Party of the Third Part aims to provide a means of effective expression for that great body of Americans commonly called the middle classes. Events which have occurred in the past in the economic and political world and the present social unrest have given emphasis to the fact, already well established, that the great majority of Americans, being members neither of the so-called laboring class nor of the so-called capitalist class, have no economic organization to represent them, such as the labor unions on one hand and the capitalist organizations on the other. The result is that in the armed conflicts between capital and labor the great middle class remains the helpless, passive, inarticulate spectator of the destruction of its own rights, privileges and interests, because, paradoxically enough, it is neither of the immediate parties to industrial strife who is the victim thereof, but a third party.

It is recognized that the division of the nation into three economic classes is an artificial one, for everybody who works (and there are few who don't) is a laborer. We are all capitalists in a varying and increasing degree as the ownership of securities representing shares of capital becomes more and more diffused; and we are all consumers. However, the classification, though economically unsound and pregnant with dangerous possibilities, is an existing one and must be treated accordingly. A powerful though minority body of manual workers has chosen to emphasize the particular form of economic activity by which it earns its living and contributes to the social wealth by fostering a class solidarity which, however justifiable when wisely and temperately used, has been employed and is being employed with increasing frequency, to the great public detriment. Likewise, a small and powerful section of the capitalist class has abused the power which the con-

## Baneful Party Politics

### A Reader Foresees the End of the "Most Expensive Middleman"

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your editorial "Third Parties" and the Governor's pronouncement on all independent movements proceed upon the theory that political parties are essential and have come to stay and that all political activities outside of the two parties are wasted energy and a nuisance.

There is a very large and increasing number of American citizens who believe that our country is what it is in spite of and not by reason of political parties. The partisan system has given us the most inefficient, expensive and wasteful Federal, state and municipal government in the world. The country has never been able to accomplish much of anything excepting when partisanship was suspended and merged in patriotism. Nearly all party men hold the party so close to their eyes that they cannot see the Republic.

If parties could be eliminated altogether and the American citizen could focus his mind upon his country directly, citizenship would come to mean something, as one could give his affections and loyalty to our institutions rather than to men.

The movement to repeal the direct primary law is in accord with your objection to third parties and independent movements in politics and with the reactionary movement to destroy liberalism in America and fasten upon the people the political machinery of the two parties and through them the industrial, social and political schemes of a certain class or classes.

The repeal of the direct primary law in this state will supply the neces-

sary propaganda to arouse progressives, and an electoral system will be worked out in which political parties will have no legal standing and be prohibited, and then the American people will be able to think directly of their country's needs, instead of dissipating their energies upon partisan politics. In the mean time the more Governor Miller and other machine politicians talk about clamping the lid down on all independent political movements the sooner the people will come to realize that they cannot afford to leave their affairs in the hands of organizations known as parties, and will establish an electoral system that will eliminate the biggest and most expensive middleman on earth, known as the political party.

WILLIAM GRANT BROWN.  
New York, March 10, 1921.

## Land Values and Taxes

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The statement you make in a recent editorial, "Backsliding," that "land values are not affected by taxation" is rather startling. You say this was the cardinal point of Henry George's teachings, and that our late Mayor Gaynor became moribund on contemplating the intellects that were unable to grasp this truth.

Somewhere, surely, there is a misunderstanding. Was it the amiable belief of these gentlemen, and is it your notion, that present land values would not be affected by an increase in the tax now assessed against these values? Just for the experience you might try to convince a real estate operator that there is no cause for him to worry over a proposed increase of the tax on his land values. But don't try if you wish to retain his affection.

H. THOMSON.  
Brooklyn, March 7, 1921.

## Fate of the Greeks

### Appeal for the Maintenance of the Treaty of Sevres

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The conference on the revision of the Treaty of Sevres, which is being held in London, seems to millions of Greeks to be truly a tragedy. It is unbelievable that our allies, protectors for centuries, brothers of yesterday, could be unmindful of the dire results which will follow from a decision resulting in a change of the Treaty of Sevres and the possibility of millions of Greeks being placed again under Turkish tyranny.

Is it possible that our allies have so quickly forgotten the untold sacrifices and slaughter of millions of the Hellenic people in Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine and every corner where Turkish despotism held sway? Have they forgotten the Greek blood shed during the war, and even at the present hour?

They propose ethnological statistics in Thrace and Smyrna, where the Turkish refugees are to-day getting protection under the Greek flag, away from the Turkish despotism and the crushing heel of the outlaw Kemal. Do they forget that thousands of Greeks of Asia Minor and Thrace left their homes in the last few years not only to avoid the Turkish tyranny but to avoid fighting in the Turkish army, if such it might be called, against the English, French and Greeks themselves?

A great many of these expatriated Greeks are to-day living in the United States, awaiting impatiently the final settlement, which was so near before the unhappy and unexpected coup d'état that took place last November in Athens, in order that they may return to their beloved land, up to now laid waste by the monster of the Orient.

The members of the London Conference assert that they will assure safety of the minority and security of life of all the nationalities under Turkish rule.

I ask you, when in the history of the world did the Turk ever respect the rights of Europeans or Christians?

Why should the Turk, whose hands have been steeped for centuries in the blood of millions of Christians and who not only has contributed nothing to the betterment of civilization but, on the contrary, has barbarously crushed the very life of progress, be given new consideration? For the simple reason that, by an unfortunate and shameful propaganda, Constantinople, in whose veins not a drop of Greek blood flows, returned to Athens.

Over six million of the Hellenic people are not only against Constantinople, but they repudiate and hate him as our allies do, and consequently it will be utterly impossible for him to stay on the throne for any length of time.

Over three hundred thousand liberal Greeks in the United States appeal again to the American government and American people who fought for the same noble ideals that the writer pleads for to stand by the Hellenic nation and prevent millions of their brothers, who for a short time enjoyed the blessing of freedom in the arms of their mother country, to fall again under the dreadful Turkish despotism of the past dark days.

DR. TH. J. MYROGORDATO.  
New York, March 8, 1921.

## The Flag in Church

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Our flag should remain unfurled in every church. In the St. Nicholas Dutch Reformed Church, the oldest one in America, is placed a memorial tablet of bronze, overlaid with old gold, on the pew occupied by Theodore Roosevelt's father and family. In close proximity beside the pulpit remains unfurled our flag. As the pastor proclaims "peace on earth, good will to man," the inspiration will be evolved to renewed consecration, patriotism, trustworthiness and eternal vigilance to safeguard our liberties.

In the old Gaelic tongue the word "America" means all-conquering work. Holding steadfastly to its meaning, realizing that progress is the law of God, daring always to do right, as a nation we shall always conquer.

MRS. R. MILLARD SCHENCK.  
New York, March 8, 1921.

## A Rhineland Reminiscence

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: One day, during the month of May, after the armistice, four nurses on duty in one of the hospitals at Coblenz had leave to go to Cologne.

Just before the train started the R. T. O. came to the window and said: "There are three Americans here who are traveling through Germany—do you mind if I bring them to your compartment?"

We were always glad to chat with American soldiers, at least so long as they proved themselves worthy, so we were ready to welcome them. We were very much surprised, however, to see three men in civilian clothes. It seemed to us rather soon for good Americans to be in business in Germany; but there they were with perfectly good papers.

In the course of the conversation,

which naturally turned to the war, one of them said: "A German in my factory told me the other day that the only mistake the Germans made at the beginning of the war was that they did not load aeroplanes with typhoid, tuberculosis and yellow fever germs and spread them broadcast over France and Belgium." That was the sentiment of one of the good, kind German people of whom Colonel Anderson speaks so feelingly.

I was in Coblenz ten months and I know something of the propaganda used to turn the Americans to Germany. Naturally, the young soldiers, being unsophisticated and homesick, were easily misled, but I did not think that any intelligent, real American officer could fail to see through it.

ONE OF THE NURSES.  
New York, March 7, 1921.

## Vacant Lots and Carfare

### Ten Years' Supply of Building Sites Within Walk of Subway

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I read with interest the special article on the transit tangle and the housing problem by Frank Bailey, of the Title Guarantee and Trust Company, in your issue of March 6.

The city's large investment in subways has brought the suburbs into direct communication with the city, and these suburbs are building up quite rapidly when one keeps in mind the retarding effect of the World War.

If any one takes the trouble to study this question he will be startled at the number of vacant lots within a ten-minute walk of an existing subway station in the suburbs. In many cases they far exceed those that have been improved—a supply to last for ten years; yes, even longer.

As to the probable price of what is now called the cheaper land which is claimed further subway extensions or feeder lines will bring into the market, these tracts are still in the original farm acreage and are being farmed in most cases. The prices at which they are held are figured on a lot basis and run from \$300 to \$700 per lot, depending upon the likelihood of which will be the first to get the benefit of further transit extensions.

When this happens what will be the price of those lots? Not one bit cheaper than the building lots ready for housing construction above referred to. A case in point—and there are many such: There are 100 lots within 1,500 feet of one station of the Brighton Beach subway, for which \$700 per lot is being asked, and these lots have sidewalks and curbs in front of them.

Mr. Bailey's fears that a five-cent fare will serve only congested centers and result in inferior housing are not well founded. Will he kindly explain, if his assertion that a 50-cent foot, five-family-on-a-floor is the only house now economically sound is in accordance with the facts, how further subway extensions and possible higher fares are going to change these conditions when the market is now glutted with low-priced lots at a five-cent fare?

There may be points where a feeder line has been discontinued or a fare increased, working a hardship on residents depending upon such transportation. Is it not possible to work out some plan other than a general and universal increase of 60 per cent or 100 per cent in the cost of carfare to every one in the city every time we get on a car so as to correct this hardship? Considering the very small proportion of those who are now so suffering, a city subsidy of such lines would be far cheaper in the form of a few dollars of increased taxes than upward of an increase of \$50 a year to each of us in carfare.

It is very difficult to get anything but generalities from the advocates of an increased fare. The Tribune printed an admirable editorial on this question on January 14, 1921, entitled: "Traffic and the Five Cent Fare." More light along those lines might cause the unthinking among our population to open their eyes and demand the right

## The Haytian Mission

### Doubt as to the Policy of Sending a Colored Envoy

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Since the days of reconstruction it has been the policy to send a colored man as minister to Hayti. This post is regarded as the highest political prize awarded the colored race for party devotion and political service. The idea of a negro representative for a negro government is doubtless intended as a compliment. The most eminent colored men, including Frederick Douglass, John M. Langston and George W. Williams, have been assigned to this post. But on closer analysis this official segregation involves a compromise rather than a compliment. It is undemocratic, to say the least, to circumscribe the official privilege of any group of American citizens to a limited and peculiar area. A representative with deep race affiliation and sympathy is hardly the ideal American diplomat who must first of all represent the government which sends him, and not the government to which he is sent.

We have in our cosmopolitan citizenship naturalized or native-born citizens who by blood belong to every race and nation, and yet we would hardly send an Italian ambassador to Italy or a Frenchman to France or a Russian to Russia. We should certainly not send a Japanese to Japan. The race spirit has become so intensified in Haytian diplomacy that a colored representative would necessarily be placed under great temptation of divided allegiance.

At one time the American negroes were appointed to the consular service in several European centers and served acceptably to all concerned. President Garfield offered the ministerial post to Senator Bruce, who doubtless would have been appointed and confirmed had he not declined the proffer. President Cleveland appointed a colored man as Minister to Bolivia, who failed of confirmation on account of stubborn opposition of Southern Senators. Mr. Cleveland's policy was to send a white man to Hayti and a colored man to a white government, so that the colored race would not lose in official recognition, but would rather gain by broadening the hitherto prescribed area. The statesmanlike wisdom of this policy was unfortunately frustrated by the narrow provincial spirit which gained the upper hand in Mr. Cleveland's own political party.

It might prove to be practical wisdom on the delicate mission to Hayti in the present crisis. This race is characterized by unquestioned national loyalty, broad human sympathy and international understanding.

KELLY MILLER.  
Washington, D. C., March 9, 1921.

## Public Service in Straits

### Again the Unhappy Story of Inadequate Rates—What Can Be Done?

Sir: The Tribune has for many years impressed me as being fair and just. But the editorial in your issue of March 2, "Boosting Gas Prices," sounds nearer a non-constructive grumble than your usual attitude toward such questions.

The problems which public service companies have had to face during the last five years can be simply stated. Take, for example, a company I am familiar with, which furnishes city, suburban and interurban electric railroad service, both wholesale and retail electric light and power, and gas service. Prior to 1918 this company had operated under strict public service regulation for a long period and at uniformly low rates, both rates and service being satisfactory to the public.

The rates received by this company in all departments averaged 23 per cent higher in December, 1920, than in December, 1917, and during that same period the money cost of the service (operating expenses and taxes alone) increased an average of over 100 per cent. In other words, the nickel fare became two and a half cents, and the dollar for gas 50 cents, and the ratio of depreciation was the same as to electric rates.

There is the problem in a nutshell—how to make 26 per cent increase in the rates received pay over 100 per cent increase in the cost of the product. It can't be done. That company has furnished the public service at less than cost for five years past, using for the purpose its high credit, which was the result of a long period of conservative financial policy.

The conditions facing public utility companies throughout the United States have been and are now the same. The Consolidated Gas Company could not escape them, and I am quite sure its situation is similar to the above. It very likely furnishes as good an example as the one used.

The increased cost of all necessities of life has been many times the increased cost of public service. Public service companies are not exempt from the operation of economic laws, and their rates must be increased relatively to the decreased purchasing power of the dollar if good service is to be maintained.

You do not seem to be in favor of the "service at cost" plan. Yet, according to my recollection, you warmly advocated the Cummins-Esch law for the

railroads. What is that in its essence but a "service at cost" plan?

The present condition of public service companies under private ownership is serious, and this is an important factor in its bearing on present country-wide business conditions. The industry as a whole has been brought to the verge of bankruptcy as the result of inadequate rates. It is the means of inadequate rates. It is the means of inadequate rates. It is the means of inadequate rates.

Public ownership and operation is not a satisfactory remedy. That simply means poor service at less than cost, deceiving the public as to the cost and making up the deficit through increased taxes. From my observation it is a failure, or will be, wherever tried. Business cannot be operated efficiently by political management, under which the incentive of reward for efficiency and economy is eliminated. But public ownership would be generally welcomed by private owners, and is the honest policy, rather than a continuation of present unjust conditions.

H. M. ARMSTRONG.  
Atlanta, Ga., March 7, 1921.

## The Lure of the Prizing

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: T. E. Kemp deplors the existing conditions in prizefighting circles, laying particular stress upon the demoralizing effect of big purses upon the city's young "roughnecks."

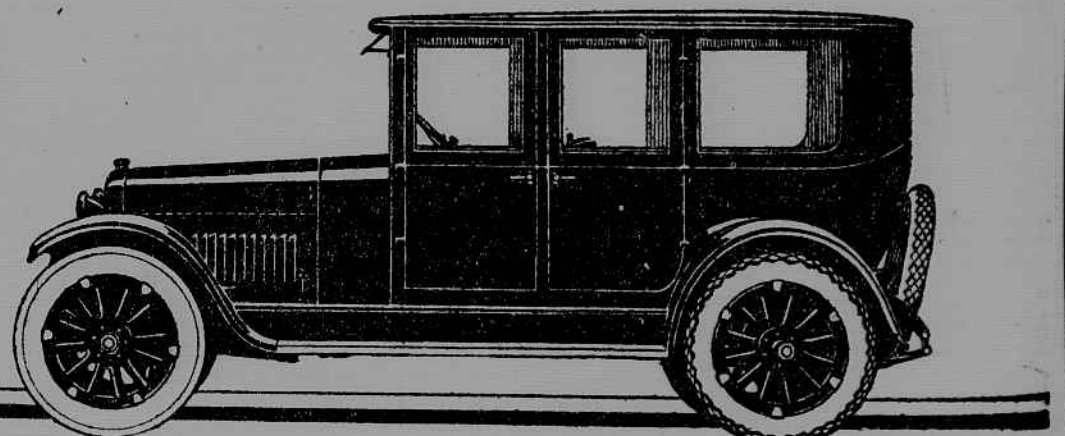
The pecuniary attraction is but secondary to the real lure of the prizefighting. It is the complete sense of self-satisfaction that suffices the boxer when he has beaten down his opponent that attracts young men to the squared circle. If T. E. Kemp had ever stepped into a ring himself and had felt and sensed the peculiar odor of the canvas, the rosin and the naked bodies he would have modified some of the statements in his letter. There is something about the fighting game that gets you, and gets you more quickly and surely than the call of the gold.

Then again, if the people are willing to pay admission prices that are large enough to facilitate the offering of large sums to the fighters, that entirely their affair.

CHESTER L. SLOANE.  
New York, March 7, 1921.

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